

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A smart card customizing system comprising:

- at least one customizing machine equipped with at least one customizing station that sends customizing data requests;
- at least one customizing data server that delivers customizing data and;
- at least one management interface connected to said customizing machine and to said data server by a bi-directional link, said management interface receiving said requests and transmitting them to at least one of said servers as soon as they are received and as soon as said server is available, and receiving the corresponding response and transmitting it to the requesting customizing station.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A system for customizing smart cards according to Claim 1, wherein said management interface coordinates the execution of at least the following types of tasks at the same time for each customizing station:

- monitoring the occurrence of a request,
- monitoring the availability of each server,
- transmitting the request to a server as soon as it is available,
- receiving the data responding to the request, and
- transmitting the response data to the requesting customizing station as soon as they are received.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A system for customizing smart cards according to claim 1, wherein said management interface has:

- a computer equipped with a multi-port card,
- each data server and each customizing station being respectively connected to the computer by a serial link on the multi-port card, and
- a multitask real-time operating system for operating said tasks at the same time and in real time.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A system according to Claim 1, wherein each customizing station comprises:

- a microprocessor,
- a reader/encoder,
- a first computer link of the serial type between the microprocessor and a computer of the server, and
- a second computer link of the serial type between the microprocessor and the reader-encoder.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A system according to Claim 4, wherein the first and second computer links of the serial type are produced by connecting predetermined output terminals of an output connector of the microprocessor to an adaptation device.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A system according to Claim 5, wherein the adaptation device comprises:

- a switching circuit comprising two switches whose input terminal is connected to a clock output terminal and to an output terminal for data signals, the switching being controlled by a programming signal on another predetermined output terminal,
- two adaptor circuits, the two input terminals of which are each connected to an output terminal of a switch, said adaptor circuits also being connected to an output terminal

for the electrical power supply and to a ground reference output terminal of the output connector.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A system for customizing smart cards according to claim 1, wherein said server is an enciphering data server.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A system for customizing smart cards according to claim 1, further including a control device for supplying additional customizing data, said device being connected by means of a communication bus to each customizing station of a customizing machine.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The smart card customizing system of claim 1, wherein said customizing machine comprises a plurality of customizing stations, each of which is connected to said management interface via a respective bi-directional link.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The smart card customizing system of claim 1, comprising a plurality of customizing machines, each of which is connected to said management interface via at least one respective bi-directional link.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The smart card customizing system of claim 10, wherein each customizing machine comprises a plurality of customizing stations, each of which is connected to said management interface via a respective bi-directional link.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The smart card customizing system of claim 1 wherein said data server includes a plurality of devices that deliver customizing data and that are connected to said management interface via respective serial links.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A smart card customizing system, comprising:
a plurality of customizing stations that send requests for customizing data;
a plurality of devices that deliver customizing data; and

a management interface connected to each of said customizing stations via respective serial links and to each of said devices via respective serial links, and that is responsive to requests received from said customizing stations to deliver them to an available one of said devices, and to transmit customizing data delivered by said devices in response to said requests to the requesting customizing stations.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The smart card customizing system of claim 13 wherein said management interface includes a computer having a multiport card connected to said serial links, and a multi-tasking system responsive to said requests for addressing said devices via said multiport card.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The smart card customizing system of claim 13 wherein said devices provide cryptographic data.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The smart card customizing system of claim 15 further including a control device that provides additional customizing data to said customizing stations.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The smart card customizing system of claim 16 wherein said control device is connected to said customizing stations by means separate from said serial links.

Claim 18 (New): A customizing station comprising:
a microprocessor;

a reader/encoder;
a first computer link of the serial type between the microprocessor and a computer of a customizing data server; and
a second computer link of the serial type between the microprocessor and the reader/encoder.

Claim 19 (New): A customizing station according to Claim 18, wherein the first and second computer links of the serial types are produced by connecting predetermined output terminals of an output connector of the microprocessor to an adaptation device.

Claim 20 (New): A customizing station according to Claim 19, wherein the adaptation device comprises:

a switching circuit comprising two switches whose input terminal is connected to a clock output terminal and to an output terminal for data signals, the switching being controlled by a programming signal on another predetermined output terminal; and

two adaptor circuits, the two input terminal of which are each connected to an output terminal of a switch, said adaptor circuits also being connected to an output terminal for the electrical power supply and to a ground reference output terminal of the output connector.